This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of improving the solubility of perfluorinated polyethers in fluorinated solvents, comprising ~~adding~~ combining a perfluorinated polyether with a solubilizer ~~to the~~ and a fluorinated solvent to form a solution, wherein the solubilizer is selected from alcohols and cyclic ethers, and wherein the solution comprises about 0.001-1 parts by weight of perfluorinated polyether to about 99-99.999 parts by weight of the solvent and solubilizer combined, and further wherein the weight ratio of solubilizer to fluorinated solvent is either about the azeotropic ratio or within the range of about 2:98 to 10:90, or is both about the azeotropic ratio and within the range of about 2:98 to 10:90.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solubilizer is an alcohol and is selected from lower alcohols and halogenated alcohols.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the solubilizer is selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, trifluoroethanol[[.]], pentafluoropropanol and heptafluorobutanol.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solubilizer is a cyclic ether selected from tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran, and dioxane.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is formed by first adding the solubilizer to the solvent, followed by the addition of the perfluorinated polyether.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is formed by first adding the perfluorinated polyether to the solvent, followed by the addition of the solubilizer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is formed by simultaneously adding the solubilizer and the perfluorinated polyether to the solvent.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluorinated solvent is selected from hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluoroethers, hydrofluorocarbons, hydrohalofluoroethers, ~~and~~ fluorinated amines, and fluorinated cyclic ethers.

10. (Currently amended) A method of dissolving a perfluorinated polyether for use in hard disk drive applications, comprising:

(a) providing a fluorinated solvent; and

(b) adding a solubilizer and a perfluorinated polyether to the solvent;

wherein the solubilizer is selected from alcohols and cyclic ethers, and wherein the solution comprises about 0.001-1 parts by weight of perfluorinated polyether to about 99-99.999 parts by weight of the solvent and solubilizer combined, and further wherein the weight ratio of solubilizer to fluorinated solvent is either within the range of about 2:98 to 10:90 or is about the azeotropic ratio, or is both about the azeotropic ratio and within the range of about 2:98 to 10:90.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the solubilizer is an alcohol and is selected from lower alcohols and halogenated alcohols.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the solubilizer is selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, trifluoroethanol[[.]], pentafluoropropanol and heptafluorobutanol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the solubilizer is a cyclic ether selected from tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran, and dioxane.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the solubilizer is first added to the solvent, followed by the addition of the perfluorinated polyether.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the perfluorinated polyether is first added to the solvent, followed by the addition of the solubilizer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the solubilizer and the perfluorinated polyether are added simultaneously to the solvent.

18. (Currently amended) A lubricating composition comprising a perfluorinated polyether, a fluorinated solvent and a solubilizer selected from alcohols and cyclic ethers, wherein the weight ratio of solubilizer to fluorinated solvent is within the range of about 2:98 to 10:90, and further wherein the composition comprises about 0.001-1 parts by weight of perfluorinated polyether to about 99-99.999 parts by weight of the solvent and solubilizer combined.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) The composition of claim 19, wherein the weight ratio of solubilizer to fluorinated solvent is the azeotropic ratio.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) The composition of claim 18, wherein the solubilizer is an alcohol.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 23, wherein the alcohol is selected from lower alcohols and halogenated alcohols.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 24, wherein the alcohol is a lower alcohol.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 25, wherein the lower alcohol is selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, and butanol.

27. (Original) The composition of claim 24, wherein the alcohol is a halogenated alcohol.

28. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 27, wherein the halogenated alcohol is selected from trifluoroethanol[[.]], pentafluoropropanol and heptafluorobutanol.

29. (Original) The composition of claim 18, wherein the solubilizer is a cyclic ether.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 29, wherein the cyclic ether is saturated.

31. (Original) The composition of claim 30, wherein the saturated cyclic ether is selected from tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran, and dioxane.

32. (Original) The composition of claim 29, wherein the cyclic ether is unsaturated.

33. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein the fluorinated solvent is selected from hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluoroethers, hydrofluorocarbons, hydrohalofluoroethers, ~~and~~ fluorinated amines, and fluorinated cyclic ethers.

34. (Original) A method of manufacturing a corrosion-protected magnetic storage device, comprising:

(a) forming a magnetic layer on a substrate;

(b) forming a protective overcoat layer over the magnetic layer; and

(c) forming a lubricant topcoat on the surface of the protective overcoat layer by directly applying to said surface the lubricating composition of claim 18.